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ABC WIDE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT

POWER PLAY  
(TENTATIVE TITLE)

by

Alvin Boretz

#7

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ABC WIDE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENTPOWER PLAY  
(TO BE RETITLED)CAST

MILES MASON  
ALEX BARON  
ADA WALDEN  
JACE GILBERT  
MAC SHANE  
DAN KEELEY  
MISS TODD  
JENNY KEELEY  
DET. SGT. WILSON  
TYSON GILBERT (V.O.)

EXTRAS:

POLICE OFFICER  
SECRETARIES  
YOUNG MAN  
OTHER ATMOSPHERE  
BELL BOY

SETS

LONG CORRIDOR /ELEVATORS  
BOARD ROOM/PRES. OFFICE  
PROJECTION ROOM  
KEELEY'S OFFICE  
KEELEY'S SUITE  
    LIVING ROOM  
    BATHROOM  
    BEDROOM  
AIRPORT PHONE BOOTH  
GILBERT'S OFFICE  
EXT. ADA'S APARTMENT HALLWAY  
INT. ADA'S APARTMENT  
COUNTER, NEWSPAPER MORGUE  
COUNTER, MUNICIPAL OFFICE  
GILBERT MANSION  
    FRONT HALL  
    LIBRARY  
        PHONE BOOTH



"POWER PLAY"ACT ONEFADE IN

INT. CORRIDOR -DAY

THE LONG CORRIDOR ALONGSIDE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF GILBERT ELECTRONICS. AS BEFITS A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR CORPORATION, IT IS PROPERLY SLEEK AND WELL APPOINTED. WE ARE LOOKING DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE CORRIDOR TOWARD A SET OF DOUBLE DOORS AT THE END...WHICH ENTER UPON THE COMBINATION BOARD ROOM AND OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. OUTSIDE THE OFFICE DOORS WHICH LINE THIS CORRIDOR, ARE THE SECRETARIES OF THE VARIOUS EXECUTIVES.

AS WE WATCH, A FUNERAL THEME BEGINS. THE DOOR NEAR US IS MARKED:

MILES MASON  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

IT OPENS AND MASON EMERGES. HE IS A DISTINGUISHED LOOKING MAN OF SIXTY. A BLACK MOURNING BAND IS AROUND HIS ARM. HE MARCHES SOLEMNLY DOWN THE CORRIDOR TOWARD THE DOUBLE DOORS. AS HE ENTERS ANOTHER DOOR OPENS AND ALEX BARON EMERGES. FORTY FIVE, WITH GLASSES, ALSO WITH A BLACK ARM BAND, HE TOO PROCEEDS TOWARD THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. HIS NAME ON HIS DOOR TELLS US HE IS A VICE PRESIDENT.

NO SOONER IS HE ON HIS WAY THAT A DOOR MARKED...

ADA WALDEN  
-TREASURER-

OPENS...AND SHE APPEARS. WEARING A BLACK DRESS WITH A STRING OF PEARLS, SHE IS IN HER LATE THIRTIES, QUITE CHIC BUT NOW SUBDUED AND WEARING DARK GLASSES AS ANOTHER SIGN OF MOURNING. AS SHE STARTS DOWN THE CORRIDOR, A DOOR BY WHICH SHE IS PASSING OPENS. IT READS:

JACE GILBERT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
FOREIGN SALES

MASON  
BARON  
SEC'Y'S  
ADA  
WALDEN (X)  
GILBERT  
MACSHANE  
KEELEY

JACE GILBERT COMES OUT, NODS BRIEFLY. HE WEARS BLACK TIE AND BLACK ARMBAND. JACE IS IN HIS MIDDLE FORTIES. A ONCE HANDSOME MAN, HE IS GOING TO SEED. HE ACCOMPANIES ADA WALDEN TO THE DOUBLE DOORS AND OPENS ONE FOR HER. AS THEY DISAPPEAR INSIDE, WE ARE POSITIONED NEAR THE ELEVATOR DOORS WHICH NOW SLIDE OPEN TO REVEAL TWO MEN. THE FIRST ONE OFF IS MACSHANE, IN HIS SIXTIES, A SWEATER VEST BENEATH HIS JACKET TO WARD OFF A CONSTANT COLDNESS. AN IMPASSIVE, TACITURN MAN HE NOW STEPS BACK DEFERENTIALLY TO ALLOW THE MAN HE IS WITH TO GO AHEAD OF HIM.

WE NOW SEE DAN KEELEY STEPPING OFF THE ELEVATOR. A VIGOROUS, GOOD LOOKING MAN IN HIS MIDDLE THIRTIES, IT IS OBVIOUS THIS IS HIS FIRST VISIT HERE FOR MACSHANE HAS TO POINT WHICH WAY THEY ARE TO GO. THE FUNERAL MUSIC ACCOMPANIES THEM DOWN THE CORRIDOR UP TO THE DOORS AND MACSHANE OPENS THEM.



SCENE 2INT. BOARD ROOM AND PRESIDENT'S  
OFFICE - DAY

LATER ON, WE WILL SEE MORE OF THE ROOM. IT IS HEAVY WITH PLANTS AND FISH TANKS. THE MASSIVE PRESIDENT'S DESK FORMS A "T" AT THE END OF THE LONG BOARD TABLE. BEHIND THE DESK HANGS A WALL PORTRAIT OF TYSON GILBERT, THE FOUNDER AND RECENTLY DECEASED PRESIDENT. IT IS DRAPED IN BLACK BUT LIKE ALL THE OTHER SIMILAR PORTRAITS THAT WILL SHOW UP LATER, THE FACE IS IN SHADOW. A DIAMOND RING AND HEAVILY BROCADED VEST WILL BE THE EXTENT OF IT.

BUT NOW, AS THE SCENE OPENS WE ARE LOOKING AT DAN KEELEY ENTERING, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY MACSHANE, WHO REMAINS IN THE DOORWAY, WAITING FOR KEELEY TO MAKE HIS ENTRANCE. KEELEY STEPS INTO THE ROOM AND STOPS, LOOKING AT THE PEOPLE AROUND THE TABLE...O.C.

POINT OF VIEW - KEELEY

CAMERA PANS THE PEOPLE WE SAW IN THE CORRIDOR, BEGINNING WITH MILES MASON, AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE VACANT HEAD CHAIR. THEY STARE AT HIM COLDLY.

(MED. SHOT)

MAC SHANE

May I introduce Dan Keeley.

You may sit over here, Mr.

Keeley.

(HE INDICATES THE LAST SEAT)

KEELEY

Thank you.

(AS KEELEY GOES TO HIS SEAT)

KEELEY  
MACSHANE  
MASON  
GILBERT (X)  
BARON  
ADA  
WALDEN  
TYSON  
GILBERT  
(ON  
SCREEN)

MAC SHANE

Mr. Mason...Mr. Baron...Mr.

Gilbert...and Mrs. Walden.

(THEY ALL NOD)

MASON

What's the purpose of this  
meeting, MacShane?

JACE

I think we could have observed  
a proper period of mourning.

MAC SHANE

I'm sorry, Jace but this  
meeting is at the express  
wish of your father. He in-  
structed me just before his  
death.

BARON

(IMPATIENTLY)

All right then. Let's get on  
with it.

MACSHANE SEATS HIMSELF IN A CHAIR  
APART FROM ALL...FOR HE REALLY  
DOESN'T BELONG HERE.

THERE IS A BEAT AND AS ALL WAIT FOR  
SOMEONE TO BEGIN.

ADA

Well, let's get on with it.

We can't....



SHE STOPS SUDDENLY AS THE LIGHTS IN THE ROOM BEGIN TO DARKEN AND THE WINDOW CURTAINS SLIDE SHUT. A MOVIE SCREEN SLIDES DOWN AT THE FRONT AND A LIGHT FLICKERS UPON IT.

CUT TO

MILES MASON...AS AN IMAGE COMES UPON THE SCREEN, REFLECTED ON HIS FACE. WE WILL NOT SEE THE SCREEN AND THE CAMERA WILL GO TO VARIOUS FACES AS THEY REGISTER SHOCK AND MORE SHOCK.

GILBERT (o.c.)

Thank you all for coming.

After my funeral, I suppose  
you didn't expect to see me so  
soon.

(SLIGHT BEAT)

And you are seeing me.

(REACTION)

While you're all concerned as  
to which of you is going to  
succeed me...all that concerns  
me is that I miss all of you  
very much. You Miles...my  
loyal lieutenant. My son...  
Jason...and you, Ada...of whom  
I was once so very fond. Don't  
be alarmed...Alex...I haven't  
forgotten you either. And you,  
MacShane...how can I do without  
you. Taking care of my every

GILBERT (o.c.) (Cont'd)

need for thirty two years. Mr. Keeley. You look confused. I know we've met only once but I wanted you to join us...very much. You're a first class executive...with a fine future. And now that we're all together ...it would be a terrible loss to break up the team. So...I'm going to bring you to me. One by one. Here...to this final and eternal world...among worlds.

(SLIGHT BEAT)

Each of you. We will meet again soon.

THE LIGHT FADES AND THE ROOM LIGHT COMES UP. THEY STARE AT ONE ANOTHER....

KEELEY

Hey, that was some movie. Can I see it again?

MASON

That's not very funny.

KEELEY

Excuse me, I'm a stranger in town but I figure this is some kind of joke. Right? I mean ...you want to see if I have



KEELEY (Cont'd)

a sense of humor.

THEY DO NOT RESPOND. THEIR GRIMNESS  
IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO HIS ATTITUDE.

MAC SHANE

I'm afraid no one here shares  
your opinion, Mr. Keeley.

KEELEY LOOKS AT THEM IN AMAZEMENT...  
THEN IRRITATION COMES.

KEELEY

All right, enough is enough.

Where's the projection room?

MAC SHANE

Right back there.

KEELEY STRIDES TOWARD IT. THERE IS  
A DOOR LEADING INTO IT AND KEELEY  
PUSHES IT OPEN.

(X)

IT IS A FILING ROOM AS WELL AND THE PROJECTOR IS ON A STAND.

PEERING THRU AN APERTURE IN THE WALL. KEELEY COMES IN. HE REACTS.

POINT OF VIEW -- KEELEY. THERE IS NO REEL OF FILM ON THE PROJECTOR.

MED. SHOT...AS KEELEY LOOKS AT THE MACHINE. HE IS JOINED BY JACE GILBERT WHO ALSO TAKES IN THE FACT THERE IS NO FILM. HE COMES UP TO THE PROJECTOR AND FEELS THE MACHINE.

JACE

It's cold. No one's used this projector.

BARON IS NOW IN THE DOORWAY.

BARON

Welcome to Gilbert Electronics.

JACE

What do you say now, Mr. Keeley?

Is it still a joke?

KEELEY LOOKS AT THEM AND GOES PAST THEM, SOMEWHAT ANGRILY, INTO THE BOARD ROOM.



AS HE COMES IN QUICKLY.

(X)

THE OTHERS ARE SEATED THERE, TRYING TO  
SORT OUT THEIR THOUGHTS. KEELEY GOES  
UP TO MAC SHANE WHO IS DISTRIBUTING A  
PAD AND PENCIL TO EACH PLACE AT THE  
TABLE.

KEELEY

I want to talk to you, Mr.

MacShane.

MAC SHANE

Perhaps later, Mr. Keeley. I  
still have some details to look  
after for Mr. Gilbert.

MAC SHANE MOVES AWAY. JACE AND BARON  
ENTER.

ADA

Mr. Gilbert was never one to do  
things subtly, Mr. Keeley.

KEELEY

Would you tell me what that  
munbo jumbo up there was all  
about.

ADA

It's fairly simple. Mr. Gilbert  
doesn't want to break up a win-  
ning team.

(SHE LAUGHS)

MASON

I still say it's not funny.

ADA

Of course not. It's ludicrous.

(SHE RISES)

I've been sitting here, mesmerized by some marvelous practical joke. And here's poor Mr. Keeley...coming in to begin a bright new career and his first day on the job, the boss says he's going to kill him.

MASON RISES ABRUPTLY AND GOES OUT.

MAC SHANE

A pity. I thought we were going to have a meeting. Mr. Gilbert wanted one.

BARON

Come on, Mac, get used to it. You don't have to do what he wanted anymore. No one here does. No one.

ADA

(BRIEFLY)

Sure.

SHE TURNS...AND EXITS. THE REMAINING MEN ARE LOST IN THEIR OWN THOUGHTS. KEELEY TRIES TO COLLECT HIS .

KEELEY

Look, let me talk to you people a minute. Just one minute...and



KEELEY (Cont'd)

one question. You don't...you  
don't really believe all that,  
do you. It was a movie. You  
know it was. It had to be.

THEY ALL LOOK BACK AT HIM, NO ONE WILLING  
TO REASSURE HIM.

Then...you're all crazy.

HE MOVES TO THE DOOR.

MACSHANE

Mr. Keeley?

(KEELEY STOPS)

I hope you're not leaving us.  
Mr. Gilbert would be most  
disappointed.

EACH FACE WAITS FOR HIS ANSWER THEN.

KEELEY

I'll be in my office in the  
morning.

HE GOES OUT...MAC SHANE SIGHS.

MAC SHANE

I don't suppose there'll be a  
meeting after all.

HE BEGINS TO COLLECT THE PADS AND  
PENCILS.

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE